

COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

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Testimony presented to the **FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE**, February 23, 2009

IN OPPOSITION TO S.B. No. 837 AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS FEES.

by Robert T. Crook, Director

Our opposition applies in particular to State Police **Permits to Carry Pistols & Revolvers Fees being doubled, Sec. 173**, from \$70 to \$140. "The fee for each state permit originally issued under the provisions of subsection (b) of section 29-28 for the carrying of pistols and revolvers shall be [seventy] one hundred forty dollars plus sufficient funds as required to be transmitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to cover the cost of a national criminal history records check." Plus Sec. 171 (1) Name search, [eighteen] thirty-six dollars. **NEW Total: \$176.**

History: P.A. 73-468 increased permit fees in Subsec. (a) from \$2 to \$6 for originals and from \$1 to \$5 for renewals; P.A. 80-297 raised fee for original and renewal permits to \$15 each; P.A. 89-180 amended Subsec. (a) to increase fees for original and renewal permits from \$15 to \$25; P.A. 01-130 amended Subsec. (a) to increase fee for permit to carry from \$35 to \$70 plus the cost of national criminal history records check.

In addition to these state costs, a Pistol Permit Course is required (\$50 -150), Cost of a handgun (\$300-1000+); Ammunition \$25. TOTAL cost for obtaining a permit and associated costs - \$551-\$1351.

This substantial increase in fees will essentially prohibit those who reside in inner city environment in generally a low economic situation and who probably need a firearm for self-defense and home more than most to exercise their Constitutional right. It also promotes violation of the law for those who determine they need the protection but cannot afford the increase.

We urge you to retain current costs as is which are substantial.

Thank you.